

REMARKS

This is a Response to the Office Action dated March 28, 2003. A petition for a two-month extension of time is included with this response.

Within this Response, claims 1 and 33 have been amended. Claims 1 and 33 have been amended to include limitations of claim 6 and a portion of claim 7. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the Applicant submits that no new matter has been added and the amendments may be properly entered.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-5, 8-14, 21-24, 29-31, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "A Framework for Inter-ORB Request Level Bridge Construction" (Steinder). Claims 6, 15-18, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinder in view of "ORB 2.0 RFP Submission" (hereinafter IONA). Claims 7, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinder in view of IONA and further in view of Lim (U.S. Patent No. 6,189,048). Claims 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinder in view of Luckenbaugh (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,877).

Regarding claims 1 and 33, Steinder fails to disclose "means to form a new identifier for the further interface means, the new identifier including check data resulting from a hash operation for checking the validity of the or at least part of the new identifier" as claimed in claim 1, as amended, or "forming a new identifier for the means to receive messages for the further object, the new identifier including check data resulting from a hash operation for checking the validity of the or at least part of the new identifier" as claimed in claim 33, as amended. In fact, the Examiner admits in the Office Action that Steinder does not teach "checking validity of an identifier..." (page 7, first paragraph). However, the Examiner asserts that IONA teaches "checking validity of an identifier..." Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. IONA discloses that "[m]ost ORBs provide the ability to determine if an object reference is still valid; gatewayed objects that have not been used in a long time could be checked to see

if they no longer exist and, if they have been deleted, the proxy may also be deleted." The Applicants submit that "validity" as disclosed by IONA only refers to the simple checking of the existence of an object reference. Where does IONA provide the motivation for "means to form a new identifier for the further interface means", as claimed in amended claim 1, "forming a new identifier for the means to receive messages for the further object ", as claimed in amended claim 33, and "checking the validity of the or at least part of the new identifier", as claimed in amended claims 1 and 33? The Examiner asserts that IONA teaches the ability to "determine whether the object in the second network is valid and is still available to receive messages", however, that is not what has been claimed by the Applicant. Therefore, Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness.

Lastly, there is no motivation to combine Steinder, IONA, and Lim (U.S. Patent No. 6,189,048). In addition, the Applicant believes the Examiner has improperly used hindsight analysis in order to arrive at the present claims. The Examiner admits that Steinder as modified by IONA "does not specify a hash operation..." and asserts that Lim teaches a hash operation (hash method). The Examiner asserts that "it would have been obvious to apply the teaching of a hash operation...as taught by Lim to the invention of Steinder as modified because a hash function will return an ORB-internal identifier for an object reference." Where is the motivation provided in Steinder and IONA to utilize a hash function in the manner specified by the Examiner? A suggestion or motivation to combine these references has not been provided by the references themselves or by the Examiner. Therefore, the combination of these references is improper and should be withdrawn.

Thus claims 1 and 33, as amended, are patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 2-5 and 7-32, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

Conclusion

Hence, the Applicant respectfully submits that all claims of the application (1-5 and 7-33) are patentable over the cited references for the reasons given above. In view of the above, allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Respectfully submitted,



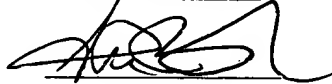
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August 28, 2003

(Date of Deposit)

Thomas Bethea, Jr.



(Signature)

August 28, 2003

(Date)